

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Naval Activities in Black Sea Ports of Odessa, Novorossiysk, and Kerch-Yenikale Strait  
2. Soviet Naval Activities at the Port of Poti

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1957

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Attachment A: A one-page report concerning coastal security measures, Soviet submarine activities, [redacted] and Bulgarian merchant vessels at the port of Odessa [redacted] 25X1

Attachment B: A two-page report concerning Soviet merchant and naval vessels, harbor defense measures, port construction and facilities, ship repair facilities, and a black buoy with flashing white light at the port of Poti [redacted] 25X1

Attachment C: A two-page report, with an accompanying sketch of Soviet cruiser [redacted] concerning Soviet naval vessels, cable laying and minesweeping activities, celebration of the October Revolution anniversary at Novorossiysk [redacted] 25X1

Attachment D: A one-page report concerning Soviet naval vessels and dry docks at the port of Novorossiysk [redacted] 25X1

Attachment E: A two-page report concerning a Soviet destroyer [redacted] 12 patrol vessels; coastal patrol; floating dry docks; and Soviet, [redacted] merchant vessels' activities in the port of Novorossiysk [redacted] 25X1

Attachment F: A one-page report concerning a Soviet cruiser [redacted] and a Soviet destroyer; port entrance formalities; and Soviet merchant vessels at the port of Novorossiysk, [redacted] 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)																			

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Attachment G: A two-page report concerning control and security measures in the Kerch-Yenikale Strait, Soviet naval vessels, repair facilities and a train ferry at the port of Kerch [REDACTED]

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2.

[REDACTED]

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Att: A

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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2. Soviet Submarines: Seven Soviet submarines were in the Pratique Harbor [REDACTED] All boats appeared to be of the same class with a small dual mount forward and a small single gun aft. They were between 55 to 60 meters in length. The boats were in a constant state of readiness and appeared to be preparing to get underway.

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[REDACTED] a submarine approximately 70-75 meters in length [REDACTED] sailed from the Pratique Harbor and put to sea. It was armed with two small guns mounted aft. Coastal patrol vessels [REDACTED] provided escort. This submarine returned to its mooring later the same day.

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3. Merchant Vessels: Three Bulgarian merchant vessels loaded steel pipes and material in crates. One of them, the ROBINIA carrying a deck load of crates [REDACTED]

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The [REDACTED] tanker [REDACTED] having loaded a full cargo, delayed its sailing and remained in the Quarantine Harbor.

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Two [REDACTED] ships loaded steel pipes and other steel material.

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*Att: B.*

2. Soviet Naval Vessels: Four destroyers and three coastal patrol vessels were berthed at the naval base in the Outer Harbor. A large destroyer was berthed in South Harbor. A coastal patrol vessel was on patrol duty outside the port. In very bad weather this patrol is cancelled.

3. Merchant Vessels: A Soviet freighter of 8000 tons unloaded wheat at North Quay in the Inner Basin.

4. Harbor Defense Measures: The submarine net at the northern entrance to Outer Harbor was open and secured along North Breakwater. The entrance is 100 meters wide.

A control post has been established at the entrance to the Naval Base formed by the new wharves. All fishing trawlers checked in here before putting to sea.

5. Port Construction: The wharves running north from North Mole and south from North Breakwater are completed. Each of these wharves is 140-150 meters in length and 12-15 meters wide. The ends of these wharves were 60-70 meters apart and this entrance was not protected by a net.

6. Fishing Activity: During good weather seven or eight trawlers put to sea.

7. Port Facilities: A floating shear leg of 50-60 ton capacity was moored in South Harbor.

8. Ship Repair Facilities: A floating dry dock with a freighter aboard was moored in the Inner Basin.

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4 February 1957  
Page 2

9. Navigation Aid: A black buoy with a flashing white light was moored 40-50 meters north of the old breakwater.

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Att. 2

1. Soviet Naval Vessels: A Soviet cruiser, [redacted] was secured to a mooring buoy one and a half miles off East Breakwater [redacted], (See attached drawing).

A destroyer [redacted] was moored at anchor one to two miles "astern" of the cruiser. A second destroyer of the same class was moored at the south-eastern end of Neverossisk Bay near the town of Kabardinka.

Three minesweepers [redacted] continuously patrolled the waters outside the entrance to Neverossisk Bay despite bad weather and rough sea conditions. All of these naval vessels darkened ship at night.

Between West Breakwater and the Coastal Pier were a minesweeper and a diving tender. The minesweeper moored with its bow facing toward the Coastal Pier and stern facing the West Breakwater. A large diameter cable, light enough to be supported by small buoys, led from the stern of the minesweeper onto the surface of the water. The diving tender appeared to have divers working in the immediate vicinity of the buoys and the cable. Very slow progress was being made in laying this cable. The operation has been underway for two months. Approximately two meters of the cable are completed each day. Two coastal patrol vessels lay 100-150 meters away and prevented vessels from sailing into the area of this activity.

2. Anniversary of October Revolution: [redacted] the crew of a [redacted] tanker went ashore and paraded with torches to celebrate the October Revolution. Five or six Soviet soldiers joined this procession but none of the populace took part in it. There was no sign of merriment or rejoicing by the public over this holiday.

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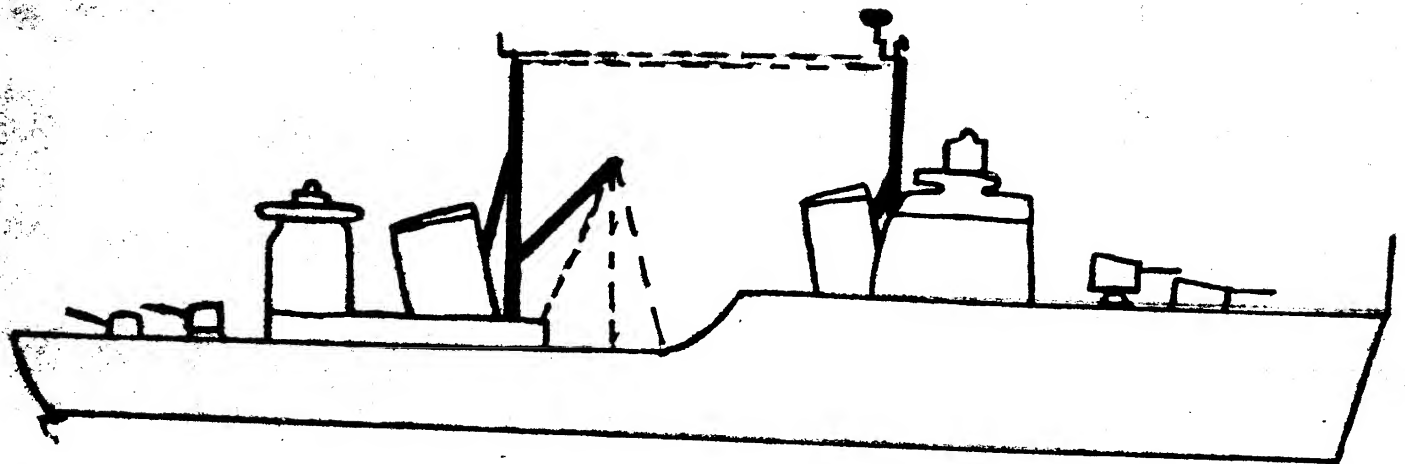
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1. Soviet Naval Vessels: [redacted] a destroyer sailed from Noveressiak. At that time a cruiser, two destroyers and a transport or repair ship were moored approximately two miles off East Breakwater. The auxiliary ship carried guns.

Twelve to fifteen coastal patrol vessels were moored in the Timber and Naval Basin. Four or five of these vessels put to sea occasional and later returned to the base.

2. Drydocks: Two drydocks were in the harbor; one with a freighter aboard was moored just inside East Breakwater. the other at Site 5 [redacted]

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1. Soviet Naval Vessels: A large Soviet destroyer [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] was at a mooring in Novorossiisk Bay off East Breakwater. It carried twin guns in two turrets forward and aft. The two stacks and two masts were raked aft. The forward mast had a beam and three or four radar units were mounted upon it.  
[redacted]

In Novorossiisk Bay near Doob Point a small target sled without radar reflector was towed by a coastal patrol boat toward a large radar target which was moored in the bay. 25X1

Twelve patrol vessels were moored stern to along the Timber Quay in the Timber Basin. Three or four of these vessels sailed for patrol duties each morning at 0800 and returned to their moorings at 1600. While underway at 10 knots off Oil Pier No. 4 [redacted] 25X1  
the anchor chain on one of these vessels broke loose and began running out. After the vessel stopped and reversed engines the chain and anchor were retrieved.

When going ashore each crew member of the patrol vessels received a loaf of bread.

- [redacted] 25X1
3. Floating Drydocks: A medium size floating drydock was moored along the harbor side of East Breakwater. A small deck was secured to the pier designated as Site 5 [redacted] Both docks 25X1  
were empty.

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1. Soviet Naval Vessels: A Soviet cruiser [redacted] This was moored 250-300 meters off East Breakwater ship, approximately 150 meters in length was flush decked and had two funnels raked aft and two masts with booms.

Two triple turrets were mounted forward and three triple turrets were mounted aft.

A great many different types of radar were mounted on the masts. The hull was painted dark blue. The ship appeared to be especially heavily loaded.

25X1

A destroyer moored off Penai Point (44°50'N., 37°53'E.) occasionally left its mooring and cruised inside the harbor and outside the harbor entrance.

25X1

3. Merchant Vessels: An [redacted] vessel waiting to be loaded was berthed alongside the Import Pier [redacted]

Each day [redacted] Soviet colliers unloaded coal from Zhdanov at the Import Pier.

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2. Soviet Naval Vessels: Several naval vessels were berthed at a new pier immediately south of the light on the shore of Kamish-Baranski Bay.
3. Repair Facilities: A floating dry dock in Kerch had a freighter aboard which was being repaired.
4. Train Ferry: A pier servicing the ferries which carry railroad cars across the strait is located at 45°22'N., 36°37'E. On the opposite shore were a new pier and some trains.

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4. **Merchant Vessels:** Soviet tankers loading oil at the pier designated as Site 6 [redacted] sailed on the average of one a day. Tankers of other flags loaded oil at the same pier. Most of these foreign tankers were [redacted] Normally, several tankers were moored outside the harbor waiting their turn to be loaded.

25X1

A Soviet ship of 12,000 tons loading grain at the pier designated as Site 7 [redacted] A [redacted] vessel loaded timber

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[redacted] This vessel came from Galati where it had spent two months.

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